

# REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Saturday, December 13, 1767.

**I**n some late Discourses upon our publick Matters, it has been thought good to call very freely about our Superiours, whether with Decency or not, has not been much of the Question; but our Coffee-Houses and Clubs have had nothing left in their serious Debates, than the turning out and putting in all our Officers of State, publick Ministers, and the like; and in this every body has spoken their Judgments, and some perhaps with Judgment, little enough too.

But I have observ'd, that among all our Debates of who shall be put out, it has not been thought of who shall be put in; and tho' I doubt, they that have the first in their Eye are not without Thoughts of the last, and perhaps have taken their Measures upon that Head, as I have heard a Gentleman, yet as the Gentlemen have not been

pleas'd yet to tell us their Minds, and we are left wholly to Conjecture, give me leave to tell you, what Discourse I have met with on this Head.

A was a *Black Paper*, and sitting in a *Café* about not far from ——— among some of his own Party, they began to have the Matter in Debate.

Well Neighbour B, and Neighbour C, and Dr. D, my Lord has broke the Ice; now I don't question, but this *Army* of the Ministry will go down. If once the House does but add up their Votes, they are gone, the QUEEN Her self can't protect them. Besides, the QUEEN knows as well as I think, Her Majesty will be able enough to part with them. ———— C, the very Words themselves are beginning to grow stale at them; these in Decency must be taken up, and you know the natural for them to

fly in the Face of their Governours, at least we have rais'd that Character upon them with good Success, and they won't be so much concern'd for losing their Masters, as most People apprehend, so that they never might be got out with so much Ease as now— And if the *Whigs* should regret the parting with them after they are out, and our Friends in, 'twill be too late, they may go hang themselves then, we are well enough.

Well, but hark ye Gentlemen, says Dr. D, I like all this very well; but what shall we do for the Supply of the Vacancies, and who are the Friends we shall get in— As to getting these out, I am very well satisfy'd, we shall carry that Point; but I am afraid we shall not agree so well about the Persons fit to be put in— Come Mr. A, who say you shall be Lord T—r.

A. Lord T—r, —Who should but Number One, you know the Key Neighbour, he is a Man of a Head, Neighbour; a Man of a Reach, and understands Business, he has been in Office before, and is fit to carry on things of this Nature, upon my Word he is a cunning Man, he is fit to govern a Kingdom—And if he be but Lord Treasurer once, we shall see our Friends get all into Places again, and the Trusts of the Kingdom will get into better Hands, than has been hitherto.

Why, truly Neighbours, says Mr. B, I could be well content Number One were in; But he has an ill Character, all Men say he is a K—e, and he will not be pleasing to the People; we should have a Man put in at first, that is a popular Man, that has gain'd some Reputation by his Conduct, and that might be more unexceptionable— What think you of N°. 2. he is a better Person a great Deal, and as cunning a Man every Joke—

Ay, and as great a K—e as N°. 1. I can assure you, says C, and has as ill a Character, you han't mended the Matter at all, Neighbour; for my Part I think N°. 1. as good a Man, as any you can name, he has been concern'd in the Business already, and understands it— What tho' he be a little K—ish, he may do the better, Honesty is not at all the necessary Part of a Lord T—r, it is for his Honesty we would have this remedy'd; if he were but a K—e a little, he

would soon be our own upon easier Terms— Therefore I am clear, for my Lord Number One, he is the Man for my Money.

Truly, says Dr. D, I am not for N°. 2. by any Means, he is a Gamester, a S—r, he'll play the whole Treasure away, the very Exchequer is too little for him, he will never lumber himself with the Business, but N°. 1. is a Man of Application, he will carry on the Affair of Credit, and the like; by which the present Reputation of the Exchequer is rais'd, and presently be popular.

Nay, Neighbour, now you talk wildly— Says B, Again, why, that is not our Business, I thought you had known better, our Business is to bring down the publick Credit, not raise it; 'tis not our Business to have Interests low, and Funds full, and Discounts abated, this is the very thing has upheld the War, and made this damn'd Generation of *Whigs* so insolent; our Business is to bring the Funds into Disrepute and Deficiencies; and to raise the Discounts of Tallies again to their old Rate— We did this to a Nicety in King William's Time, when Stock-jobbing was in its Meridian, when Banks stoppt Payment, and then nobly bought up their own Bills at large Discounts, when the Funds and disappointed Payments made the War go on heavily, and took off the Chariot Wheels of that Kings Courage, and 'tis our Work to bring things to their primitive State again; you mistake things, if that be your Reason, why you are for my Lord N°. 1. for that very Reason I am against him.

Why really, Sir, reply'd C, you are much in the Right of it there, I did not think of that; but what think you then of the R. N°. 3. he seems to me to be the Man among them all; for first he is poor, and will be for getting a good Share to himself; secondly, he is no Man of Application, and won't much care how things go, and so there will be some open-handed Work under him; and by the happy Conduct of some of our Friends, who know well enough how to play that Game, we may soon come to our Stock-jobbing Days again, and obtain Deficiencies enough.

D. Indeed you have hit it, Gentlemen, no Man like him—



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A, Well, well, I am satisfy'd, indeed I did not so well consider that Affair, if I had, you may be sure, I should have join'd in it, for I own, the present Credit of the Exchequer, is the Ruin of all our Cause, and the only Support of the Whigs—Well, but now who will you have for Secretaries of State, for these must both out, or we shall be quite bank'd.

Why, there is my Lord N<sup>o</sup>. 4, says B, I suppose no Body will object against him, he has always been our fast Friend, and shows his Good will to Us, and to our Party upon all Occasions, and I know no Man fitter for it in the World.

I know he is our Friend, says C, but he can never do our Business; he is not the Man the World takes him to be, he is really a Man of no Depth, in short he is one of our State Fools, that thinks himself so wise he knows every thing, and is capable of nothing; but lies nodding and poking over Business, instead of Dispatch and Application—And what Good did he ever do us in that Place he was in; if he had had any Brains, he had never let this Whig Party have got into Power; 'tis to his inconsistent Management that we owe that Court Revolution, in which we lost all our Ground, and by my Consent he should never be trusted again; in short, I know he passes for a mighty Man, but I really take him to be a formal Politician Nothing, and therefore tho' he be heartily on our side, I cannot think of him.

You are very difficult to be pleas'd, says Dr. D, and yet I cannot but agree with you as to N<sup>o</sup>. 4, but who is the next Man, with you have my old Lord N<sup>o</sup>. 5.

O fye, says A, O fye, says B, now you have mended the Matter indeed, then you will have all your Dispatches made with long Speeches; no, no, that will not do, besides he has an Employment already—And must have a good Salary for it, and that will please him better than a Crowd of Business, which he never was fit for in his Life.

Well, I have found you out a Man, says A, what think you of N<sup>o</sup>. 6, he is our hearty Friend, and will never fail to serve us as far as he serves any Body; besides he has one Qualification which suits our Occasion to a Tittle, and that is, that he tells his Business to every Body that will but drink a Bottle with him, and so we shall never want Intelligence to send over to our Friends

you know where, upon all Emergences; no Man so fit to be Secretary of State as he.

As to the other Office of Secretary, says Dr. D, you have no more to do then put in old N<sup>o</sup>. 7, who was in it formerly, for being capable neither of Good or Harm, the passive Creature will readily let things run to rack, just as we would have it.

Well, but now says A, again, who will you have put into the Command of the Forces, for that is a most material thing; and if you do not cut short the rising Greatness of your General the Duke of M——, it is impossible to do our Business; nor will our Friends abroad be ever able to show themselves, for the French must not be run down at this intolerable Rate, I am for keeping the French at Bay, but we must not ruin them, for all our Hope is from them at last.

As to that, says B, there is Room enough for it, and Men enough too, if you please to take due Notice of them, and I'll offer you two of as necessary Extremes as you can desire; and first there is my Lord N<sup>o</sup>. 8, he is bold and brave, hot and fiery to all Extremities, but has no Conduct, no Experience, no Judgment, and he will precipitate you upon all Occasions; or there is my Lord N<sup>o</sup>. 9, and he has so much Judgment, and Caution, and Prudence, and so little Fire, that you need not fear a great Deal of Bloodshed, and so we should perhaps lose the Field, but we should be sure to save the Army; and either of these People may be useful in their Turns, and let us have Room to manage our selves as we see Occasion—And to this Proposal all agreed.

Upon this Debate, which if it has too much of the Life and Soul of the Party in the Description, it is our Misfortune, but not our Fault; upon this I say, you see what Sort of People it is necessary to have put into Places, and what the Party drive at in supplanting the Ministry.

To sum it up, the Design is plain.

A soft Treasurer, Knave Secretaries, and a mad Man, or a Coward General; this is what they want, that the Cabal may underhand govern the State; and what a Case the Government and Her Majesty shall be in, under this Conduct, I leave to those People to consider of, who think it worth while to read the Following of these Papers.